GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:544
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES PROCESSED IN THE COUNTRY
MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of fruits and vegetables produced/processed in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government agreed that the said percentage is very low; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 544 to be answered on 30.08.2001.

As per the statistics made available by the National Horticulture Board (NHB), production of fruits and vegetable duringthe years, 1997 − 98, 1998 − 99, 1999 − 2000 are respectively 120.94, 131.58, 136.33 million tonnes. However, the breakup of total production of processable varieties of fruits & vegetables is not separately maintained. Exact co- relation, therefore, between production and processing is difficult to establish. Projections of estimates made by different studies indicate that approximately 2% of fruits & vegetables are processed.

The Department provides financial assistance for setting up of food processing industries, expansion, modernization of existing industries, training and human resource development and quality control etc. In the budget for 2001 − 02, the processed products of fruits and vegetables have been exempted from 16% Central Excise.

The Department of Food Processing Industries has also prepared a draft policy, which envisages creation of an enabling environment for setting up of food processing industries, for meeting critical gaps in infrastructures and establishing a link between the different components of the food chain.